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So long, 2024
A bold sunset over Head Lake Park caps off the first weekend of 2025 in Haliburton County. /ADAM FRISK special to the *Echo*

Twins arrive on New Year's Day

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

It was a New Year's Day unlike any other for Ilona and Brandon Sutcliffe, when the Wilberforce-based couple welcomed not only their second child, but their third as well.

"Twins don't run in either family," said Brandon, "so this was a surprise for everyone."

At 36.5 weeks pregnant, Ilona delivered fraternal twin girls on the morning of Jan. 1, at their cozy home in Highlands East. Ildiko was born first, with Milania following suit two hours later. Both girls weighed in at just over five pounds after a fast labour on the first day of the year.

"We knew we wanted a home birth," said Ilona, noting that she had a very positive experience with their first daughter,

see FIRST page 2

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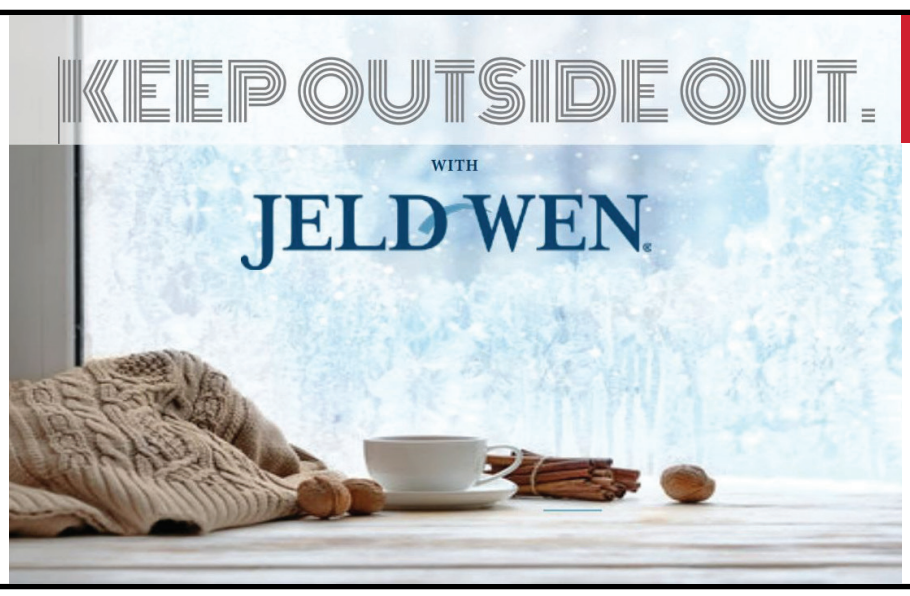

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Heidi Hudspith flips her sign around to officially close up shop until the spring. The business owner in the downtown core had to make the difficult decision to close over the winter months. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

Out cold; a decision to press pause for local business

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

It's not something she takes lightly, but the owner of Mixtape Vintage, Heidi Hudspith, has made a big decision.

She will be closing her doors until spring.

"All of my costs are higher in a season where I am making the littlest income," she said.

Located at the lower level of 163 Highland Street in Haliburton, the quaint and cozy vintage shop has been in business for five years, having shuffled around a few times throughout the downtown core to accommodate growth and interest as Hudspith's visions came to fruition.

Now, in a small space nestled between Head Lake Park and the main roadway through the village, Hudspith feels at home. But despite feeling settled, she knows she can't make it work through the winter months. "One of my incentives for closing was that last winter was my toughest winter," she said. "It was the worst one I've had in five years."

After half a decade in business, Hudspith has started to map the patterns of shoppers, and if her predictions on the ebbs and flows are in-line with previous years, then she hopes that her decision to close could prove beneficial to the future of her business. "I make all of my money in July and August," she shared. "Then in November, it's absolutely horrible for sales. Mentally, it's so hard, and it never really bounces back."

The shop-owner shared that by the time she sees the light of warm weather coming out of the cold months, she is "completely depleted of all resources."

Just in time to snap into the busiest season of the year.

And so the pattern repeats again and again.

As a result, Hudspith says she feels trepidatious when trying to expand, as there's a mental block in place at all times, dragging her down. "Our sales are growing," she said, "but I haven't really been able to grow the business. I am constantly so cautious."

By the time Hudspith pays for a select few staff members, as well as rent and the cost of utilities and products to stock the shelves, she's left with an empty pot. "It makes more sense to close because I will literally lose money if I stay open," she said. "I am not even looking to make money, I am just trying to cover the loss."

When asked what a solution could be to the problem that's plaguing many businesses throughout the downtown core and beyond, Hudspith isn't sure of the answer. Many are not.

She shared that she isn't shuttering her doors for good, though, as one temporary fix is the opportunity for some pop-up shops in collaboration with other local makers and vintage aficionados. "I'm not exactly sure what that will look like, yet, but we will make it more of an event," she said. "I am hoping we will be open for that once a month or so, timed around holidays."

Hudspith hopes to open full-time again around the May Long Weekend, but that is not set in stone for the time being. She will continue selling vintage items through her Etsy shop and on Instagram until she can open her doors once again.

Ildiko and Milania Sutcliffe were born at home early on New Year's Day. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

First babies of 2025 born in Wilberforce

from page 1

Ava, two years ago. "I like to take a natural approach to life."

But while it was their preference to deliver the twins at home with the assistance of the Haliburton Midwives for support, Ilona noted that they would not have had time to drive to the hospital if they wanted to. "It all happened so fast," she laughed, "I would have been delivering them on the side of the road."

While the twins weren't due to arrive for another few weeks, the early and quick delivery makes the girls the first recorded babies of 2025 born in Haliburton County according to the midwives.

While they arrived early, both girls are healthy, and Ilona is already feeling relief from carrying them for the majority of a full-term pregnancy. "That last month was very uncomfortable," she shared, "so I am so happy they're here, and I am starting to feel normal again."

Ilona said that all three of her daughters have Hungarian names, as a tribute to her heritage and her family.

As we wrapped up the quiet conversation and the birth story, Ava and Brandon were in their kitchen, making pizza together for a family dinner. "We always wanted a big family," said Ilona as she watched them in the kitchen, with a twin in each arm while she soothed them to sleep. "So we are so happy."

Brandon and Ilona Sutcliffe with their three daughters, Ava, Ildiko, and Milania. The twins were born the morning of Jan. 1 at their home in Wilberforce.

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Headed to the Barre this new year

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

It's a new year, and many are diving into those lofty goals to better themselves in some capacity.

Getting fit is often something that's at the top of many a resolution list, but like many well-intentioned endeavours, it often gets dropped by the time we hit February.

But Kirstley Dams wants to change that. "For me, the effect that daily movement has on my mental health is the number one reason to stay consistent," she said.

Dams runs Pulse with Kirstley Barre classes out of the Reform + Restore studio in Haliburton. "When I tell someone I teach a Barre class, nine times out of 10 they think I'm talking about a bartending class," Dams chuckled. "Barre is a form of exercise inspired by ballet that does not involve dancing. We use body weight, light weights and resistance to increase strength, mobility and endurance."

With a balance between mat training and using a ballet Barre as a tool, the classes have the ability to be simultaneously fast-paced and gentle, intense and calming. And unlike varying fitness or dance classes, Barre can be for anyone. "There is no fitness or ballet experience needed," said Dams. "Participants have noticed a difference in their physical capabilities as well as a positive impact on their mental health."

And that's what Dams believes this should all be about. In the era of making resolutions and bettering yourself in some capacity, the core of the goals should always be ways in which you feel your best. "Daily movement is important for a lot of reasons," Dams said. "Regardless of what your goals may be, moving your body daily is going to have a positive impact on your cardiovascular health, and ensure you maintain mobility and muscle mass as you age."

Kirstley Dams is offering Barre classes to Haliburton County, and encourages all those interested to try it out. /photo submitted

There are a few different ways to explore Pulse with Kirstley. One being a drop-in option during weekly sessions, but the other option is to opt into multiple sessions at once. "Coming to one session will definitely give you some daily movement and you'll leave with a nice dose of serotonin," Dams said. "But if you are looking to achieve results - not just appearance related but could be increasing your balance, flexibility, mobility or aerobic ability - then consistency is the only way to achieve those."

Dams noted that she has worked with individuals who have grown stronger; both emotionally and physically, over the course of a training session. "We have people who are able to do things by the end of an eight week Barre series that they've never done before," she stated.

The Minden-based Dams first got into Barre a decade ago, when she lived in Burlington. "It was the only fitness class I ever really felt comfortable in," she reflected. Since then, she continued practicing from home, but noticed an absence of available classes locally upon moving to the area.

At the end of 2022, Dams was inspired by the co-owners of Haliburton's Reform + Restore, Sarah Comer and Shay Hutchings, to commit to receiving her Barre certification, and start her classes.

Since then, she has worked with clients of all ages and experience levels to bring Barre to life in the highlands. "Trying something new can be scary," Dams said. "But I think if you are someone who is craving movement but hasn't quite found the type of exercise that works best for you, then just come out and try a class."

Dams welcomes inquiries and questions, and can be reached through Instagram @pulsewithkirstley or by email kirstleyd@hotmail.com.

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Celebrating one year of self care at Willow Organic

LISA BUCHER

Special to the Echo

Located in the heart of Haliburton, Willow Organic has become a go-to spot for wellness and self care. Co-founded by Sylvia Holland, an experienced spa owner, and Shannon Feir, a registered nurse with over 30 years in healthcare, Willow Organic is celebrating its first year, bringing their passion for holistic self care to the area.

Holland, who also owns the nearby Wind in the Willows medical spa, envisioned Willow Organic as a complementary space, not a competitor. "Many of our clients visit both spas," she says. Her vision, combined with Feir's own journey towards wellness, established the foundation for Willow Organic.

After years of working as a registered nurse, Feir experienced burnout and began a healing journey that included a deeper understanding of the nervous system. She realized the need to offer wellness services to the community, combining her healthcare background with her passion for holistic healing.

Willow Organic offers a range of services, including a Health Canada-approved pelvic health chair. This chair treats hypertonic (overactive) and hypotonic (underactive) pelvic floor conditions. It has become a game-changer for clients of all ages and genders. The benefits of this treatment go beyond just physical and sexual health; they also promote emotional well-being and helps to restore confidence.

The spa also features a Japanese-inspired head spa, "This isn't just about washing hair," explains Holland. The treatment starts with a computer analysis of the scalp, which is followed by a customized treatment. Additionally, Willow Organic offers osteopathy, massage therapy, herbalism, and IV vitamin infusions provided through a partnership with Smith's Compounding Pharmacy in Toronto.

The spa is built on sustainability principles, with each product reflecting the spa's commitment to health and environmental responsibility. The jewellery line they offer is made from 75 per cent recycled materials, and the shampoo is sourced from a female-led Indigenous brand.

Additionally, the spa hosts workshops and events to educate the community about self care, energy work, and the importance of holistic health to overall well-being.

Reflecting on their first year, Feir and Holland are both humbled and proud. The journey hasn't been without challenges—educating the community about their selfcare approach has required persistence. However, the rewards have been undeniable.

"We've had clients cry during treatments, hug us when they leave, and share heartfelt gratitude…" shares Holland. Those moments remind them of their purpose.

With a successful first year, Feir and Holland plan to refine their services and continue community engagement. But above all, their mission remains the same: to provide a holistic approach to self care.

Shannon Feir of Willow Organics reflects on her past year in business in Haliburton County. Alongside Sylvia Holland, Feir has created a space that focuses on both mental and physical self care. /photo submitted

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Young skiers line up before heading out on the trails on Jan. 4.

Learning new ski-lls

Joleen Thomas gathers families together on Saturday, Jan. 4 in Glebe Park to kick off the official start of Jackrabbit ski season. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

Oliver and Charlotte Gage warm up during Jackrabbits training.

Thomas Ward with Ruby and Pearl Mansfield do a lap of Glebe Park before lessons started.

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points of view

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Forever in our memories: Creighton Feir

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Clear cut

LIKE MANY people, I welcome the start of a fresh year with open arms. A new chapter, a clean slate, an opportunity to close the door on both the highs and the hauntings of the past 365 days.

The easy editorial stance this week would be to lean into the new year. To wish happiness and health and wellness to our readers, and to look ahead to the year with a rosy sheen and a twinkle in my eye.

And to a certain extent, I do.

But I also know that once the confetti has settled and the shimmer of resolutions has dulled, we're left with nothing more than flat champagne and a half-eaten Toblerone bar.

That is why I entered this year with trepidation. Harnessing the hope that naturally presents itself with the promise of something fresh, but tip-toeing into the new calendar year with a chip on my shoulder.

emily stonehouse

Editorial

I used to consider myself a problem solver. Not sure if that's the result of being an eldest sibling or aligned with my allegedly fiery Leo star sign, but I liked to believe that every problem that presented itself had a solution if you looked hard enough. There was not a road too blocked, an object too stuck, a thought too crammed - each and every problem came with a solution. Clear cut, black and white, point blank.

But if this past year has taught me anything, it's that life doesn't come with a how-to guide for fixing our problems.

Sometimes, there isn't an answer.

This past week, I interviewed a few business owners who need to shutter their shops until warmer weather returns, and the promise of currency from outside our community starts to flow once again.

It's a conscious choice they are making to close down, but upon chatting with them, I realized it's not really a choice at all. They aren't making money. Clear cut. Black and white. Point blank.

And for the most part, they don't blame our community. They recognize that the cost of groceries, of heat, of life in general up here over the winter months leaves little wiggle room to splurge on non-necessities.

But these non-necessities are the lifeblood of our community - the drivers that usher people into our downtown cores, onto our windy roads, through the veins and arteries that make our towns tick.

As much as I appreciate and value our grocery stores and real estate agents, people aren't often drawn to our town to get a good deal on Wonder Bread or to casually peruse one of the (many, many) real estate agencies on our main street.

They come for the colour, for the coffee, for the character. Little things that make our community stand out from the rest.

But not for the winter months. Because they just can't do it anymore. Clear cut. Black and white. Point blank.

So what's the answer to this problem? Is it to offer more drivers into our town in hopes that it will boost winter tourism? Perhaps there are tax breaks, government grants, or funding opportunities to explore for these local businesses who are throwing in the towel for the time being?

Or maybe we come to terms with the fact that we are just a quiet little town that needs to hibernate once a year.

There isn't a clear cut answer. Nothing black and white, nothing point blank.

And maybe in this new year, we try to embrace the unknown and relish in the possibilities of uncertainty.

Because between black and white, there's a whole spectrum of colours.

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Hearty Highlanders brave a frigid, blustery Saturday to get some ice fishing in on Head Lake. /ADAM FRISK special to the *Echo*

Northerner

MARTEN OPENED the window a crack and breathed in the cold night air. Fresh and clear, it tingled on his skin. It also gave a little lift to his spirits, reminding him that simply being alive and safe in a beautiful setting made him pretty darn lucky as a human being.

Linda was asleep in bed. She probably would have been surprised to see him doing this. But then, he often did things that would surprise her, especially this time of year. Being from the big city, her winter experiences have been quite different over the years. But, prior to their current living arrangement, Marten had spent his entire adult life in the north. And by 'the north' he did not mean three hours north of Toronto. Hanging around close to the tree line in northern Canada had given Marten an appreciation for the colder climate and the landscape that came with it.

Although he also grew up in the big city, he could not imagine living there now. Instead of subdivisions and malls or traffic congestion and police reports, he wanted to look out over open space and the natural world. And with that came the cold air he was now breathing in so hungrily.

The Christmas season was over and Marten was glad to see it gone for another year. While he enjoyed it when it was happening, so much food and people and driving left him irritable and tired. So reading by the fire on a cold winter's night was the perfect antidote. Other than the owl that frequented the bush behind their house, it was pretty quiet at night. Perfect for contemplating the meaning of life, wondering about politics and wars and planning the next couple of months.

Winter made Marten feel alive. And winter wasn't winter without snow, heavy warm clothing and the snap of clean cold air. In summer, there was no escaping hot humid days unless he jumped into the lake. But in winter, once dressed appropriately, the world was his oyster. He could choose between downhill and cross-country skiing, slap on snowshoes to explore the bush or use his skates as a passport over the lake. While he wasn't fond of the noisy snowmobiles, he had to admit he loved the exhilaration of speed especially when a trail sailed cross the frozen water.

All that was needed was cold. Cold to clear his head. Cold to sparkle on the trees. Cold to turn deer's fur into puffy warm coats. The chickadees and blue jays' voices rang clear in the crisp air. The sun shone brighter and the sky sang bluer when the temperature dipped lower.

Down

sharon lynch

Our road

Northerners were a hardy bunch. They had to be. And when Marten thought of the early settlers that came north, he wondered how they had managed with the rough and basic amenities of life back then. Some had given up and returned to a more predictable, easier and warmer life. Perhaps those who stayed had no other option. So they made the best of a tough lifestyle.

But there has always been people who thrive in the north. They feel more alive in the weather, are willing to take risks, try something new and are more adept at doing for themselves rather than looking for assistance. Because often there is only themselves to get things done. Independence and self-reliance were not mere words but necessary traits in the old days. And some of that spirit continues in the modern world.

Now Marten wondered if he was romanticizing a sometimes harsh and unforgiving life. These were no longer the pioneer days of the past. Still there were some aspects of a northern winter that seemed timeless, at least to him. Piling and hauling firewood for his stove. Clearing a path to the back shed. Shovelling the snow off a patch of ice for skating. Moonlight on white that turned a night scene into magic.

And above all – the clean, cold, dry tingle of night air on his nose. It reminded him of who he was, where he came from and what he loved most about being alive.

points of view

Bigfoots

steve galea

Loon Tales

JUST BEFORE Christmas, I walked into one of this town's fine stores with the goal of buying a pair of winter boots.

I suppose I must have looked like the serious boot-buying type because as soon as I walked into the boot section and started perusing the racks, I was immediately greeted by an eager shoe salesman.

"Oh goodie! We just got in a new line of elevator shoes!" he said.

"Actually, I'm looking for winter boots," I said.

"Oh … Any particular features you are looking for?" he asked.

"Laces," I replied. "I think I'm ready for laces."

I didn't want to be one of those people who brags about recently mastering the art of tying their own shoelaces, but I thought it important that he knew he was dealing with a sophisticated customer.

Of course, he was suitably impressed, and after mumbling something about not being paid nearly enough, he showed me several options.

It was a long and drawn-out process, however. You see I normally take a size 8. But after trying on many pairs of acceptable boots, I discovered I now take a size 10.

I thought this was odd. So, when I got home, I typed "why are my feet several sizes bigger" in my Internet search bar – and I learned a lot.

I immediately ruled out the leading cause, which is not getting out of the way of a passing elephant, since I couldn't recall that happening recently.

But I was amazed to learn that as a person gets older, their feet frequently get larger for other reasons too. Apparently, the added weight some of us gain, and the loosening of ligaments from all the miles we have walked, sometimes results in significant gains in shoe size.

This was a double whammy for me, since I frequently hike to fast-food places.

Yet it also explained so much.

For instance, I now realize that all those incidents when I stepped on my partner's feet while slow dancing were not actually my fault. For, on almost every occasion, my partner and I were dancing to *Stairway to Heaven*, and, if you know that song, you also know its duration provides ample time for a person's feet to grow at least half a size.

It then occurred to me that this might also explain why there are so many Bigfoot tracks reported on the Internet recently. Think about it. As we age our feet get bigger, and we old guys also get hairier. We grunt a lot more, go out of our way to shun cameras, and generally want to be left alone too. The mix up is entirely understandable.

Armed with this knowledge, I resigned myself to accept bigger feet as one of those things that is just a part of ageing. But I won't lie. It's also worrisome that, at the same time this is happening, our ears and noses are growing too, which means there will come a time when I will be able to go to Disneyland and, if I wear white shoes, pass as Mickey Mouse. This also doesn't bode well for my hop-scotch game.

But there's an upside.

If this keeps up, I will probably never need to put on another pair of snowshoes for the rest of my days.

Let's call it the thrill of victory and the agony of the feet.

pic *of the* past

Sid's Esso Service, owned and operated by Sid Jennings on County Road 1 in Gelert in the 1950s. Shortly after this picture was taken, a snack bar was added for his wife Jean to run. It was so popular they converted the two bays of the station into a small dining room, then in the late '60s a large dining room was added, and was known as Gelert Gardens Restaurant and Tavern, serving Chinese and Canadian Cuisine. Submitted by Terry Carr, granddaughter of Sid and Jean

Christmas at SIRCH

community notes

west guilford

Eleanor Cooper
705–286–0507

Mrs. Chapple, mother of Debra who with her husband, Ron Bartley, live on Grass Lake near my place. Ever since they moved in a few years ago I have tried to be neighbourly and visit them sometimes with crab apple jelly in hand. They have responded at Christmas time with gifts of flowers or chocolates and have invited me in for a slice of Yule Log! Ron and Debra have looked after Mrs. Chapple who has attained reasonable health into her 106th year! Congratulations to all for this achievement.

One more somber note I have to report the passing of Bill Reynolds of Nila Rd. I have known Bill since I first came to board with his grandparents Lawrence and Alma Morrison when I began teaching at S.S. No. 2 and No. 3 Guilford. I followed Bill as a scholar until he graduated with a B.A. from Queen's University, much to the pleasure and pride of his parents, Nila and Leslie Reynolds. Bill's pride was equaled in that of his mother's achievement as author of *In Quest of Yesterday*. Although a resident of Whitby, Bill's love of lakes and hills and of his first home brought him back for leisure and holidays to his beloved Redstone cottage and the shores of Pine Lake.

Over Christmas time Medeba hosted their generous turkey dinner for the community on December 13th again well supported and attended.

SIRCH Bistro in town welcomed several Guilford people, among them Paul Rolfe, his mother Pam as well as Kathleen Owens, Beth Cooper and myself who would otherwise have found it awkward to make our own turkey dinner.

Support Snowflake Meadows

Snowflake Meadows Rescue is hosting a roast beef dinner at Mulligan's Pub and Patio on Jan. 17. There will be two seatings available, one at 4 p.m. and the second at 6 p.m. There is a minimum donation of $45 per plate. For tickets, call Kristyn at Snowflake Meadows at 289-338-3429.

Submitted

January 2024 Year in Review

First baby in Canada welcomed by local family

What started as a standard New Year's Eve for Haliburton County local Nadia Shivji, turned into an evening she will never forget, as she and her husband, Jake Martell, welcomed their baby boy into the world. Keirnan Shivji Martell was born at exactly 12:00 A.M., on January 1, 2024. This made him the first known baby born this year in Canada.

Dysart reserve funds use cuts tax levy increase

Finance staff expect Dysart's treasury to have finished last year with a surplus.

An initial draft of the 2024 municipal operating and capital budget included an almost 13 per cent increase to the tax levy for about a $40 increase for every $100,000 assessed to a property.

Dysart asks Haliburton vendors for $5 per market day

Knowing that the Farmers' Market desires to return back to their original location, the Mayor Murray Fearrey stated a new condition for vendors."We have arrived at $5 per unit, so in other words, say it's May, and you have 12 [vendors], that's $60 for a day. And if you have 40 in July, that would be $200 for a day. And if it rains on a Tuesday and you didn't participate, it wouldn't be anything," Fearrey said.

New tax on STRs is unfair, say operators

Some short-term rental property owners cry foul that they have to collect a proposed four per cent municipal accommodation tax when other lodging providers won't be required to do so.

As part of the proposed bylaw to regulate short-term rentals (STR), Haliburton County plans to attach a municipal accommodation tax (MAT) to Airbnb hosts. Money from the tax is to go toward implementing and enforcing the STR bylaw and to tourism promotion.

So long, for now

Echo reporter Emily Stonehouse takes a break to go on maternity leave, and the *Echo* welcomes Thomas Smith to the team as a staff reporter for the *Echo*, and editor for the *Minden Times*.

Hazel Orsan-Good watches her pinwheel spin during her Jack Rabbit group lesson on Saturday, Jan. 6, 2024. /FILE

Rosemary Shivji of Haliburton welcomes her grandson, Kiernan, shortly after his birth. /FILE

The annual Robbie Burns Night, held at the Haliburton Legion, offered Scottish drink, dance, and food. /FILE

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February 2024 Year in Review

Ingoldsby United Church Closes, Amalgamating with Haliburton United

It is with a heavy heart to say that Ingoldsby United Church held its last service on Dec. 31st, 2023. "Welcome everybody, thank you for coming today," opened Rev. Harry Morgan, "it's nice to have a full church on this, our last day." Ingoldsby United Church's last sermon was filled with high spirits, despite the church's uncertain future.

Hill makes history at Haliburton Highlands Museum

Steve Hill has preserved Haliburton County's history for nearly 40 years, but he turned the last page of the career chapter of his life.

The beloved curator retired from Haliburton Highlands Museum after 39 years in early 2024. Going beyond tending to hundreds of artifacts, he's carefully taken care of our history through gaining profound knowledge of the people, places, and things that make up Haliburton County. He's given back to generations by sharing what he knows with all visitors who have stepped foot on the museum grounds.

Local syrup producers takes advantage of warm winter

"There is hardly no snow in the bush," says Rick Wood, "compared to most years. Usually when you are tapping the trees, you are in waist deep snow" In years past, Wendy and Rick Wood would not start tapping their trees until February 18th and not begin boiling for syrup until March 3rd, says Rick Wood. "March 3rd was our earliest boil to date." says Rick.

Dysart releases 2023 waste management study

Dysart residents care about what they consume and where it's going.

It's evident the municipality's innovative waste management programs are doing the trick.

With only two of Dysart's five landfills "active", it's more important than ever to divert waste wherever we can, says environmental manager John Watson. Even though the programs have proved successful, there's always room for improvement. Haliburton, Kennisis Lake, and West Guilford have hit their limit.

A young skater takes to the ice during a Family Day public skate in Haliburton. /FILE

Haliburton Nordic skiers from Haliburton Highlands Secondary School competed against neighbouring schools to wrap up their successful season on the trails. Despite minimal snow over the 2024 season, coaches were proud of the accomplishments of the students and their colleagues. /FILE

The Fish Hatchery was packed with people and pups participating in Snowflake Meadows Rescue's Puppy Yoga./FILE

Natalia Brown and Angela Kalich share a laugh at Cupid's Carnival, held at Abbey Gardens for Valentine's Day. /FILE

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March 2024 Year in Review

BIA ready for a fresh, new year

Brandon Nimigon joined the Haliburton Business Improvement Area (BIA) board in 2016 with the desire to see downtown grow and flourish. After eight years of participating in decisions, helping hang flowers, put up fall decorations, and plan events, he knew it was time to step into a bigger role. He was nominated by 2023 president David Zilstra to become the BIA president for 2024 at their AGM.

Nearly $2,800 raised for Wilberforce Elementary School food program

Residents of Benoir Lake raised $2,780 from a RADAR snowmobile race, and decided to donate it to Wilberforce Elementary School's food program. Angelo Bortolazzo and Brandi Loverock donated the money and had a free barbecue for the school's kids, helped by the culinary talents and time of AM/PM Outdoor Gourmet owner Amanda McKenzie.

Public Health asks for wariness of measles this March break

Students are out of the classrooms the week and the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit (HKPR District Health Unit) is advising residents to be cautious traveling over March break as cases of measles continue to rise throughout Ontario and other countries. Reports of measles have sprouted up across the district, and seems to be a growing concern for school-aged children across the province.

Dysart opens Head Lake Park to farmers' market

A deal has been made that will allow a beloved farmers' market at Head lake Park this year.

The Haliburton County Farmers' Market Association hosted a marketplace of local vendors at the park for a little more than a decade. But that changed last year when the market was relocated to Rotary Beach Park. That venue change was blamed for an almost 30 per cent drop in attendance last year. After considerable back and forth between the township and the farmers' market association, it was agreed that the group will pay $4,200 to the township for concerns over repairs and liability, and have been granted the green light to move ahead with the community initiative.

Places for People held their annual Sleeping in Cars event at Head Lake Park, in an effort to fundraise for affordable housing across the county. /FILE

Razzamataz Kids shows dazzled audiences for another full season of singing, dancing, and magic for kids of all ages. /FILE

The Easter Bunny visits the Maple Syrup Festival in Highlands East. /FILE

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Hal High students venture south

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

Haliburton HIghlands Secondary School students went to Oakville and Toronto in December to participate in Star Fest, and learn the ins and outs of the theatre world. /photo submitted

A group of local high school students were recently dazzled by the bright lights in the big city.

As a part of the drama initiatives at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School (HHSS), a group of 26 students through Grades 9 to 12 ventured to Toronto and Oakville to explore the world of theatre outside the community.

"There were no problems the whole time," shared HHSS drama teacher Meghan Mardus. "The students were so amazing, and it's so great as a teacher to see teenagers light up like that."

Many of the students played a part in the recent HHSS production of *Circus Olympus*, which assisted with their costs for the adventure. Mardus was adamant that she wanted all students who were interested to be able to go on the trip. "It was such a rich learning experience for them," she said. "For some students, this was just an entirely new experience."

One of the first stops on the two-day December trip was to Sheridan College in Oakville, where students had the opportunity to participate in workshops at the school. The focus of the workshops were dance, musical theatre vocal, or auditions skills. "It was really cool," reflected Mardus. "They were able to recognize the transferability of the skills they learned in these workshops. Even if they didn't plan on pursuing musical theatre, they saw how the auditions practice could help with job interviews and things like that."

The well-respected college also offers one of the only fully comprehensive theatre tech programs in the country, and the local students were invited to explore the many behind-the-scenes facets of the school before preparing for their own performance.

One of the driving forces behind getting the students to Sheridan was for the chance to participate in Star Fest, a regional theatre festival where students from across the province perform pieces they have developed.

During the trip, four other schools were represented, with Hal High students traveling the farthest to participate. They had selected a scene from *Circus Olympus* to perform in front of the crowd, and left the audience dazzled. "My heart was just bursting," shared Mardus. "I was so, so proud of them. If they were nervous, you never could have known."

After their performance, the students were shuttled to downtown Toronto, and had the opportunity to explore the city; seeing a new movie, shopping in the malls, and wandering around the busy streets..

All of these students had a portion of their formative years occur during lockdowns brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, making this adventure into the city that much more impactful. "They were curious, they asked so many questions," said Mardus. "We live in a wonderful, beautiful place, but there's so much value in exploring outside the community, and seeing what else is out there."

The trip ended with a viewing of *Come From Away* at the Royal Alexander Theatre in downtown Toronto. While Mardus shared that the show itself was incredible, her favourite part came from watching the students' faces light up as they took it all in. "It was pretty magical," she shared.

Following the performance, the students had the chance to meet a handful of the performers for a meet and greet to ask questions and get to know the industry.

The students took time to research the storyline of *Come From Away* prior to the performance. The show is set in Gander, Newfoundland, and follows the true story of planes being rerouted to the tiny town following the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks. All the students were born in the years following the catastrophic event, but took the time to reflect and understand the stories that came from it.

And that's what Mardus says is the magic of theatre; the opportunity to open your eyes to worlds unknown; to connect with characters, and to create a story for audiences of all ages to appreciate and understand.

"I really hope this is something we can offer our students every year," she said. "I just really enjoyed it from start to finish."

Recycle Right

Print recycling posters for home and work at **dysartetal.ca/recycle**

Recycling for Containers

Rinse all containers and ensure they are clean of liquids or food

Food & Beverage Cartons; Plastic bottles, tubs, containers (caps can be left on); Plastic plant pots and trays (no soil); Glass bottles and jars; Metal beverage cans, metal food cans; Aluminum foil and trays; Cardboard canisters; Styrofoam (food and drink only); Plastic shopping bags (clean, dry, empty)

Recycling for Papers

Boxboard; Newspapers; Magazines & Catalogues; Paper (office, mixed, writing); Envelopes (includes ones with windows); Corrugated cardboard (flatten); Paper beverage cups (plastic lids go in Recycling for Containers); Brown paper bags; Paper egg cartons, paper take-out trays; Toilet paper rolls, Paper towel rolls

Garbage

Must be placed in clear garbage bags

Plastic Ziploc bags, other plastic film & bags; Plastic food pouches; Cookie, chip, bar, snack bags and wrappers; Plastic straws, plastic cutlery; Disposable gloves, masks, sanitizing wipes; Food waste (consider composting); Broken ceramics; Paper towel, facial tissues; Styrofoam block and peanuts; Diapers (consider reusable); Cotton balls, pads, swabs; Fats, cooking oil, grease (never pour down sink)

Municipality of Dysart et al

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2024 – A quiet winter for birds

ED POROPAT

Special to the Echo

A wide variety of reasons could contribute to the decline of common birds, generally seen in Haliburton County this time of year. While access to food and predation may be one reason, climate change likely contributes to the others. /photos by Ed Poropat.

The 58th annual Christmas Bird Count was held on Saturday, Dec. 14, 2024. The weather was near perfect, with mostly clear skies, relatively mild temperatures, and light winds. A group of 29 field observers fanned out across the prescribed count circle to record as many birds as possible in a 24-hour period, providing a snapshot in time of winter avian populations in southern Haliburton County. Meanwhile, other participants scanned their feeders for any species that might be visiting their yards for a tasty meal. By the time evening fell, a total of 3234 individuals were tabulated, representing 44 different species. How do these findings compare to other years?

Overall, despite the near average diversity, birds were scarce and not easy to find this winter. This was not a surprise, however. 2023 was a banner year for seed production across the county. In response, many birds remained here to feast on the plentiful cones. Other winter finches invaded the area from surrounding regions to also enjoy the bounty. The exact opposite is true this year. Natural food is scarce in the woods, resulting in mass migrations of some species during the fall. You may have noticed that Blue Jay numbers are significantly lower this winter (thousands migrated south in autumn, mostly due to the lack of acorn production), and Purple Finches are absent (the Balsam Firs produced very few cones in 2024). Even some of our resident Black-capped Chickadees likely moved out of the region, toward areas with better natural food availability.

A closer look at the numbers

Waterfowl were well represented this year. Although the smaller lakes and ponds were frozen, the larger bodies of water such as Gull Lake remained ice-free. Trumpeter Swans continue their slow but steady rise in population with a record high of 20 birds observed this year. Buffleheads were also plentiful, with 32 birds counted in the circle. Overwintering Mallards (397) were in near-record numbers, enjoying the many areas of open water. A closer scan of the flocks might reveal a few different birds enjoying their company. A female Wood Duck was found in Minden, for example, providing only the 7th record in the 58 years of the count. Diving ducks such as Common Goldeneye (50) and Hooded Merganser (63) were relatively common along the Gull River and in the larger lakes. Red-breasted Mergansers (6) were a nice find on the day of the count, as they are uncommon in Haliburton County. A few Common Loons (3) lingered in the region. They will continue south once the larger lakes begin to ice over.

Wild Turkey numbers (195) appear to be healthy, after many years of population growth. Ruffed Grouse (9) were not easy to find, suggesting an ebb in their population cycle. Raptors continue to do fairly well in the area. With the high seed production in 2023, rodents will have had a very successful breeding season, providing predators with a plethora of food. The six Red-tailed Hawks observed was above average in number. Bald Eagles (6) seemed scarce on this day, but they will travel long distances to feast on a deer carcass. They were observed regularly before count day. A Sharp-shinned Hawk in Minden was only the 15th ever seen during the count. Even rarer, an adult Cooper's Hawk was observed hunting pigeons south of Minden on the 13th. A robust rodent population also results in stronger owl numbers. Barred Owls (3) were observed by several participants but a Snowy Owl found along Horseshoe Lake Road during count week was an exceptional sighting.

Although monitoring over several years is required to accurately determine real population declines, some of our resident species appear to be struggling. Black-capped Chickadees (907) have shown below average numbers for the past four years. Some of these fluctuations might be attributable to food availability and movements. Additionally, with the high price of bird seed, fewer people seem to be feeding birds, making them more challenging to detect on count day. This might also account for the apparent reduction in numbers. Time will tell! Downy (30) and Hairy (57) Woodpeckers, however, have plenty of trees to feast on. And yet, their numbers appear to be declining. The cause is unknown at this point. Most Red-breasted Nuthatches (49) migrated south in the fall due to the scarcity of cones so their low numbers this winter are no surprise. White-breasted Nuthatches (80), on the other hand, appear to be holding their own after several years of population decline.

As predicted, most of the winter finches such as crossbills, redpolls, purple finches, and grosbeaks were non-existent or few in number due to the lack of natural food. The only finch to appear in healthy numbers was the American Goldfinch (234).

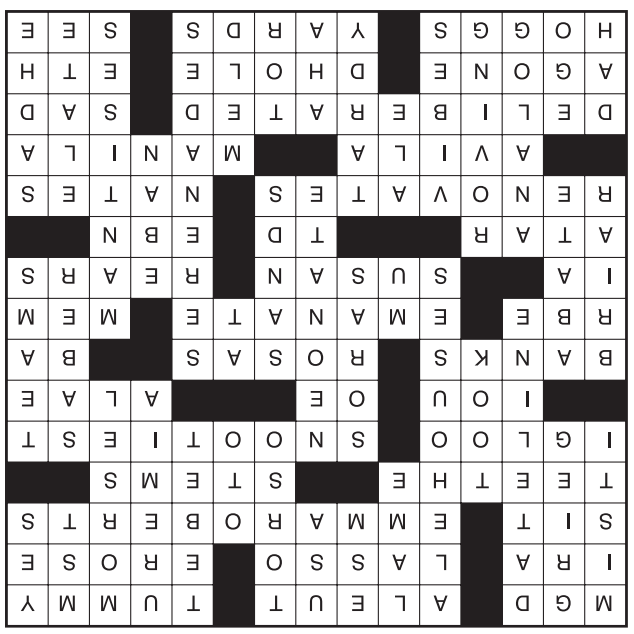
Rarities and Misses

Because birds are capable of flight, they can show up anywhere, pushed by strong winds or following an inaccurate internal compass. One of the highlights of any Christmas Count is finding some of these stray birds. Although no new species were recorded this year, a few surprise individuals were found. The Common Grackles (3) found at two different feeder locations within the circle were significant finds. They rarely overwinter in Haliburton County. In addition to the aforementioned Wood Duck, two different gull species lingered in the area. Ring-billed Gulls dislike the snow and usually disappear with the first snowfall of the season. Despite this, a single flyover was recorded by one group on count day. Herring Gull is more expected but still quite rare on this date - a single bird was observed. With copious food in the north, Pine Grosbeaks have not ventured south this winter so the single bird flying over Sandy Bay was an excellent record for count day.

Despite more than 91 hours of combined effort, several species were absent on the count this year. Not a single Canada Goose was found on count day, even though it has appeared in eight of the last 10 years. Our only predatory songbird, the Northern Shrike, was missed again in 2024. It has not been recorded in the last three years of the count! And, of course, our boreal species continue to disappear. Canada Jay, Black-backed Woodpecker, and Boreal Chickadee, once expected species in this area, are now almost certainly gone from the circle, likely victims of climate change.

As always, a huge thanks to all the participants for their enthusiasm and commitment. It was tough work out there this year but the effort has provided an accurate picture of what birds we can expect in southern Haliburton County this winter.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS



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Telling our stories

Local resident Barry Hart will be the featured guest at the January 10th Speakers Series presentation. His topic is "Water, water everywhere ..."

Water has been a big part of Barry Hart's life. He and his wife, Heather Alloway founded Water Ambassadors Canada in Haliburton over 22 years ago. Water Ambassadors Canada helps provide life giving, clean drinking water in developing countries using simple technologies.

Water, the most common of liquids, is quite mysterious. That's what makes it so special, and Barry will tell us stories about the extraordinary properties of water and what it means to life on earth. Barry will also highlight his experiences with Water Ambassadors Canada.

Barry is an authority on water and will draw from his 30-year teaching career in science, chemistry and biology to explain and answer everything you wanted to know (or didn't want to know) about water….. but were afraid to ask.

The Speakers Series, a member of the Haliburton County Community Cooperative, takes place on the second Wednesday of each month from 7:00 – 9:00 P.M. at the Haliburton Highlands Outdoor Association Fish Hatchery, 6712 Gelert Road. Admission is $15/person payable at the door or on line at www.tellingourstories.company.site.

As seating is limited, pre-registration is highly recommended. To obtain tickets, contact Barrie Martin by at 705-457-7557 or by email at barrieinthehighlands@gmail.com .

Submitted

Staying safe online

Aging Together as Community and The County of Haliburton invite you to a conversation on tips to stay linked in and safe online.

Where: Royal Canadian Legion Branch 636, 12847 HWY 35, Minden

When: Wednesday, January 15, 2025, 2:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M..

Register by January 13, 2025, by email at atachhevents@gmail.com or call Connie Wood at 705-457-7215.

You can also attend from your home via Zoom.

The Legion will serve their famous fish and chips after the guests speak.

Submitted

Veteran seminar here to help

On Jan. 26, the Haliburton Legion is hosting a Veterans Seminar for Veterans, spouses and family members of Veterans, both living and deceased. The purpose of the seminar is to share the benefits that some may not know they are entitled to through Veteran programming. Please RVSP to the Legion at 705-457-2571 or Nick at 613-255-3473. There will be a light lunch, question period and one-on-one meetings.

Submitted

We did it! A thank you to Haliburton from Places for People

A huge thank you to the incredibly generous people of Haliburton County! We are thrilled to announce that not only did we meet our fundraising goal of $15,000, we surpassed it—raising a remarkable $17,600! This shows that affordable housing is a priority for our community, and you've proven that you truly put your money where your heart is.

Throughout December, the "Turn Up The Heat for Places for People" fundraising campaign invited donors to help cover the cost of a new furnace for one of our homes and offset the heating costs for all 20 of our affordable housing units. Supporters could purchase a degree or part of a degree to give as an eco-friendly gift or keep it for themselves.

The campaign was sparked by the urgent need to replace an aging oil furnace at a cost of $8,450. Combined with the heating expenses for all 20 of our units, the total bill last year approached $40,000. While our tenants contribute to these costs through rent, there is still a significant funding gap.

Special thanks to all the loyal supporters of P4P who donate throughout the year and the volunteers who contribute their time. Shout out to Walkers Heating and Cooling, Kelly's Propane, and Home Hardware for their on-going support with gifts in kind.

We also want to thank all the like-minded groups who share our values and who together with us are making housing and affordability a priority for Haliburton County.

Places For People is proud to own and operate 20 affordable units throughout Haliburton County— without relying on government grants. Managing these properties and supporting our tenants is no small feat, but it is a responsibility we take on with dedication and pride.

If you missed the campaign but would still like to help, consider becoming a monthly donor. And if you are wondering what to do with the $200 you're about to receive from the Ontario government, Places For People would be deeply grateful for your donation.

Looking ahead, we are excited to announce our annual Sleeping in Cars event, which is just around the corner. We will be recruiting teams to participate in this challenging and impactful fundraiser, so if you have a group ready to brave a winter night, we'd love for you to join us. Save the date—March 21st, 2024! More details will follow soon.

Stay connected with us on Facebook and Instagram for updates.

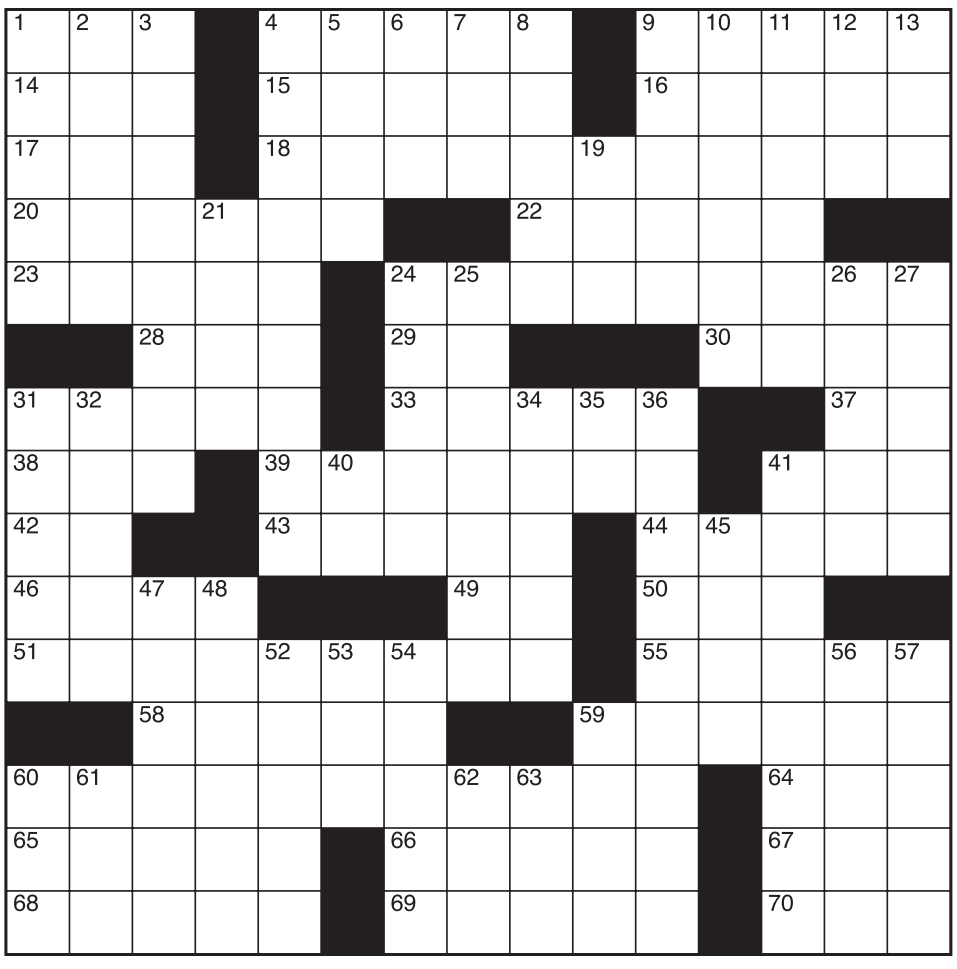
Places for People is a charitable organization. We run entirely through the efforts of volunteers and we do it all without government funding.

Donations can be made through Canada Helps or Zeffy via our website:
placesforpeople.ca.

For more information, please contact:
Sherry Lawr
Email: sherry@placesforpeople.ca
Phone: 416-888-3867

Thank you again for your overwhelming support!

Submitted



CLUES ACROSS
1. Miller beer variety
4. Member of people inhabiting Bering Sea islands
9. Stomach
14. Investment vehicle
15. Fictional soccer coach Ted
16. Irregular in botanical parlance
17. Cease standing
18. "American Horror Story" actress
20. Grow milk teeth
22. Plant parts
23. Snow house
24. Most contemptuous
28. Note to repay
29. Old English
30. Wings
31. Financial institutions
33. Parks and Lopez are two
37. Mr. T's "The A-Team" character
38. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
39. Give off
41. Semitic alphabet letter
42. Farm state
43. Actress Sarandon
44. Back parts
46. Zoroastrian concept of holy fire
49. Touchdown
50. One point north of due east
51. Refurbishes
55. Silver and Dogg are two
58. Former Tigers catcher Alex
59. Type of envelope
60. Seriously considered
64. Unhappy
65. Past (archaic)
66. Asian wild dog
67. Old English letter
68. Young domestic sheep
69. Football players need to gain them
70. Witness

CLUES DOWN
1. Dormant Peruvian volcano
2. Norwegian composer
3. Indicates location
4. Pubs
5. Unable to walk easily
6. Electronic warfare-support measures
7. World leader
8. Midsection
9. Jewish calendar month
10. Urological condition
11. A small quantity of anything
12. Mountain Time
13. Affirmative
19. Word element meaning ear
21. Carried away
24. Short-billed rails
25. Newborn child
26. Sword
27. Groups of people
31. Prickly, scrambling shrubs
32. Become less intense
34. Polishes
35. Indicates position
36. Songs sung to one's beloved
40. The 12th letter of the Greek alphabet
41. Insects
45. Israeli politician
47. Pre-digital
48. Roaming
52. Ambience
53. Brew
54. Late
56. Make ecstatically happy
57. Semitic alphabet letter
59. Blend
60. Dash
61. Self
62. Exclamation of satisfaction
63. Hill or rocky peak

Answers on page 13

Shirley and Charlie Mitchell take advantage of the open ice during the public skate.

The Shank family enjoy the public skating event.

Skate date

Jacob Shank skates around during a public skate on Sunday afternoon. /ADAM FRISK special to the *Echo*

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
PROPOSED ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT
TO ZONING BY-LAW 2005-120 OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF DYSART ET AL

- **DATE:** **Tuesday, January 28, 2025**
- **TIME:** **9:05 AM**
- **LOCATION:** **Take notice that the public meeting for zoning by-law amendment will take place in Council Chambers in the Municipal Office 135 Maple Avenue, Haliburton, Ontario and in electronic format using Zoom. The meeting will be live streamed to YouTube.**

Applications:

Lands of Popp and Arndt - File No. D14-ZB-2024-012

Purpose and Effect: The application will rezone the lands from Rural Type 1 (RU1) zone to Rural Type 1 - XX (RU1-XX) exception zone to permit a dog kennel.

Location: 1102 Carroll Road, legally described as Part Lot 6, Concession 11, in the Geographic Township of Dudley, now in the Municipality of Dysart et al.

Lands of Ledgett - File No. D14-ZB-2024-015

Purpose and Effect: The application will rezone the lands from Waterfront Residential Type 6L (WR6L) Zone to Waterfront Residential Type 6L - XX (WR6L-XX) exception Zone to permit the use of an inclined elevator within the minimum water setback to a lake of 2.9 metres.

Location: 17580 Kawagama (Bear) Island, legally described as Part Lot 5, Concession 13, Parts 3, 9 and 10, Plan 19R-5467, Parts 2 and 4, Plan 19R-6491 in the Geographic Township of Havelock, now in the Municipality of Dysart et al.

Lands of Dysart et al and TPS Haliburton Holdings Ltd. – File No. D14-ZB-2025-001

Purpose and Effect: The subject properties are currently zoned General Industrial (M) and Environmental Protection (EP). The proposed amendment is to accurately delineate the Environmental Protection (EP) Zone boundary on the subject properties.

Location: Part Lot 12, Concession 9, Parts 19, 20 and Part of Part 21, Plan 19R-2953 in the Geographic Township of Dysart, now in the Municipality of Dysart et al.

For more information about electronic meetings and public participation in an electronic meeting, contact the Municipal Clerk at mbishop@dysartetal.ca.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS MATTER INCLUDING INFORMATION ABOUT APPEAL RIGHTS: Contact the Planning and Land Information Department by appointment during regular office hours (8:30 A.M-4:30 P.M, Monday to Friday), or by contacting Kris Orsan, Manager of Planning at korsan@dysartetal.ca.

Dated at the Township of Dysart, this 7th day of January 2025.

Kris Orsan, CPT,
Manager of Planning
Planning and Land Information
Municipality of Dysart et al
135 Maple Avenue, Haliburton, Ontario K0M 1S0
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Dawn Mugford-Guay
Human Resources Coordinator
Township of Algonquin Highlands
1123 North Shore Road
Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1S0
Email: dmugfordguay@algonquinhighlands.ca

Township of Algonquin Highlands

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Township of Algonquin Highlands
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Visit our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers for a more detailed posting and job description.

Please forward your resume to shume@haliburtoncounty.ca no later than January 23, 2025, at 4:30pm.

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The County of Haliburton is an equal opportunity employer. Accommodation can be provided in all steps of the hiring process, please contact Human Resources for further details.

In accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, the information gathered will be used solely for the purpose of job selection.

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Chris and Norm and Kelly
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nieces and nephews.

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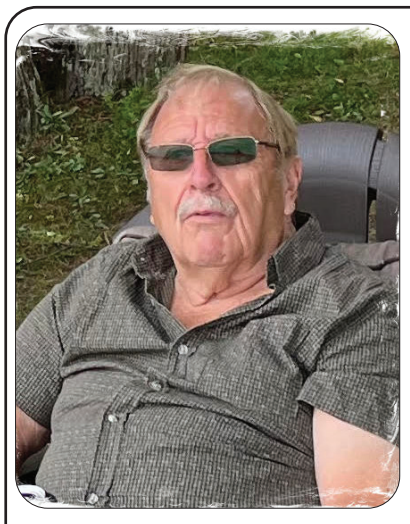

William "Bill" Reynolds

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Bill at Kingston Health Sciences Centre on Sunday, December 22, 2024, in his 75th year. Dear father of Clayton and Beth. Fondly remembered by his grandchildren Liam, Isla, and Everleigh. He will also be fondly remembered by his many friends and neighbours including J'Nan, Bruce (Shirley), Ron (Debbie), David and countless others whose lives he touched. Bill dedicated many years of his career to General Motors, where his hard work and commitment were deeply valued. After his retirement, he relished time spent at his home in West Guilford and exploring the natural beauty of the Haliburton Highlands, a place close to his heart. He leaves behind a legacy of love, laughter, and cherished memories that will forever be treasured by his family and friends.

A Remembrance Gathering

Friends were invited to visit with the family at the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209 on Thursday afternoon, January 2, 2025 from 2 - 4 p.m. Interment West Guilford Baptist Church Cemetery. As an expression of sympathy, donations to the Haliburton 4Cs or the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation would be appreciated by the family.

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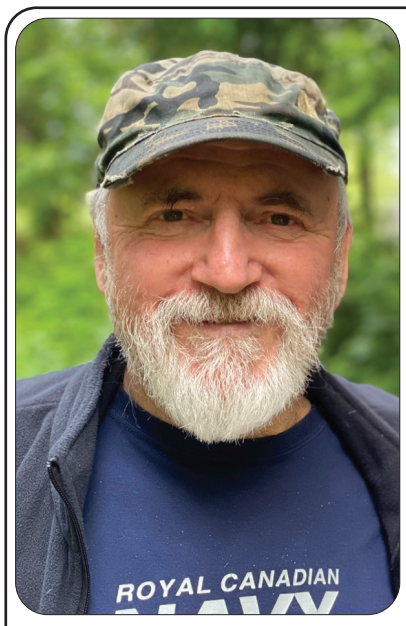
650 OBITUARIES



Paul Yanchus

Peacefully at Haliburton Hospital with his family by his side on Wednesday January 1, 2025 in his 76th year. Beloved husband and best friend of Elizabeth Lewis. Loving father of Karli (Glyn) and Joshua (Jessie). Dear brother of Fran (Mike), Patty, Kitty (Pete) and Theresa (Jon). Fondly remembered by his grandchildren Andie, Marion, Gareth, Abigail, Isabella, Gabriel, Gianna, Rosalyn, Kolbe and Elijah. Predeceased by his brothers Robert and Michael. Also lovingly remembered by his many nieces and nephews. Paul was a Stone Mason and High School Teacher for many years. He was a devoted member of West Guilford Baptist Church. He enjoyed inventing, building and had a very creative nature.

Visitation & Funeral Service

Friends are invited to call at **WEST GUILFORD BAPTIST CHURCH** 1083 Nila Road, West Guilford, Ontario on Wednesday morning, January 8, 2025 for a Funeral Service at 11 o'clock. (Visitation one hour prior). As an expression of sympathy, donations to the West Guilford Baptist Church or the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation would be appreciated by the family.

Community FUNERAL HOME
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Daniel "Dan" Kay
(Resident of Haliburton Lake, Ontario)

Peacefully, at Huronia Hospice in Penetanguishene on December 25, 2024, in his 69th year. He leaves behind his beloved partner, Doreen Kellestine, who shared his love of adventure and travel. Dan was the proud and loving dad of Kelly (Mark) and DJ, and the best grandpa to Hayden and Maddie, who adored him. He was a dear brother to Dave (Brenda - predeceased) and Jim (Karen) and is fondly remembered by his nephews Jason (Candace) and Jake, as well as his nieces Jennifer, Kate (Eric), and Karrie (Brandon). He was also the world's best "Step Dan" to Darel (Tracy), Dayle (Kirk), and Katie (Mitch) and their kids—Mckinley, Sawyer, Brenden, Emma, Josie, and Jack. Haliburton Lake and all the people whose lives he touched will truly never be the same without him. Also remembered by his former wife and loving friend Linda Kay. Dan's parents, Ross and Eileen Kay, and his brother Ron predeceased him, but their legacy lives on in the warmth and generosity he shared with everyone he met.

Dan had a huge heart and an even bigger life. He served his community as a Councillor with the Municipality of Dysart et al for five terms, and for over three decades he ran K Enterprises, helping families improve their homes. When he wasn't working or helping others, Dan was planning the next adventure, often dreaming about what was around the corner with Doreen.

Those who knew him will always remember his kind spirit, his humour, and the way he always made everyone feel at home. Haliburton Lake has lost one of its brightest lights.

A Remembrance Gathering

Friends called at the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209 on Saturday January 4, 2025 from 1-3 p.m. Please bring your memories of Dan to share with others. Casual attire please. As an expression of sympathy donations to the Huronia Hospice or the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation would be appreciated by the family.

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The Times
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County Life

THIS WEEK

PRIVATE LIFE

Dennis Drainville steps out of the public spotlight
...See page 3

FEATURE

Turning A Page

Literacy program helps people learn to read... *See page 4*

PEOPLE

ECHOES

Bob Giuliano gathers his columns into a book... *See page 6*

TUESDAY, JANUARY 4, 1994

THE HALIBURTON COUNTY
ECHO
"The Voice of the Highlands Since 1882"

Vol. 111, No. 51 • 16 pages • 65 Cents + GST = 70 Cents

Cold, but not that cold

Year ends with Arctic blast, but no records

by MARTHA PERKINS
Editor

Brrrrrrrr...

Have you stopped shivering yet? Can your car start without the aid of booster cables? Is your heating bill coming back down to earth?

The Christmas of 1993 will go down as one of the coldest in memory. After an almost balmy early December, winter arrived with a vengence right on the coat tails of Old Saint Nick. In his bundle of presents, the jolly old man of Christmas also brought along some Arctic temperatures from the North Pole.

But amateur weather watcher Jim Elstone says that although it was cold, no records were broken over the holidays.

On December 26, the mercury dropped to -34.5° and the record low was -41.5°. "But the wind chill on Boxing Day was -55 and that's why Sunday was so bitterly cold."

It got even colder the next day, with a low of -38.5°. That too, however, wasn't cold enough to top the record of -40.6°.

Discussions about the weather after Christmas were much different than those before the holiday, when everyone started to wonder whether we were going to have a green Christmas. There was no snow on the ground until Tuesday and yet there was enough in subsequent days to give the countryside the sparkle of the special season.

Elstone says that in 150 years of record keeping in the Highlands, there have only been two green Christmases: 1974 and 1912. So the oddsmakers were giving a white Christmas a pretty good bet.

But it is true that there is less snow than usual. By last Wednesday when Elstone was contacted at his Haliburton home, the snowfall for December was 34 centimetres. The average is 51.8 cm. There was also slightly less rainfall than usual.

However, December was just making up for November, when there was much more precipation than usual. In November there was a total precipitation of 105.8 mm. The normal level is 88.4.

There's a tendency to say "When I was a kid, there was much more snow." Elstone cautions us to remember that we

Please turn to page 3

County's drivers need a boost into New Year

by LINDA SHUTT
Staff Reporter

It did seem a little weird. While everyone else was trying to warm things up over the frigid Christmas weekend, Brian Moore was trying to cool things down.

Cold cars were the problem for most people in the county as vehicles succumbed to the -34 degree weather on the night of December 26, and a nippy -38 the following day.

But for Moore, the problem was a cold-induced breakdown of the cooling units that chill the refrigerators in his two local stores. The refrigeration compressors at Westside Jug City's stores in Minden and Haliburton both went out of commission overnight, leaving Moore without refrigerators on Monday morning.

"It was a fun, fun weekend," he said with a chuckle.

The 241 people who telephoned Curry Motors for help starting their cars would probably agree with the facetious comment.

"We were so far behind it got a little ridiculous," said Curry's tow truck operator Murray Burton.

According to Jim Elstone of Pinestone Resort, about 30 cars at the resort wouldn't start on the morning after Boxing Day.

From December 26 until Friday, Curry Motors had two operators working 18-hour days trying to handle a backlog of calls that averaged more than 40 a day.

'We were so far behind it got ridiculous' Booster cable expert MURRAY BURTON

It was Friday before they had a chance to count the number of people they'd helped.

Ninety-five per cent of the calls were for non-starters and since many were at cottages, serving them was slow and difficult.

Not everyone had trouble getting around, however.

Some of the hardiest – about 400 people – were skiing the slopes at Sir Sam's on Boxing Day, when the wind chill made it feel like -55 degrees outside. The ratio of hot-chocolate-drinkers-in-the-chalet to skiers was a little skewed but owner Chris Bishop said the conditions were excellent.

"The skiing's great and the cold weather allowed us to make a lot of snow."

The less hardy took refuge at home with a warm fireplace and a good movie.

Video City owner Lon Duncombe said it was a great season for the movie business.

"You really had to be a sports fanatic to be out skiing or snowmobiling," he said.

Since many aren't, that meant a search for a good book or a good movie.

Please turn to page 2

Bob Porter and his son Christopher check out the Boxing Day specials at Stedmans in Haliburton. Many store owners report that business was up this Christmas, but customers were definitely looking for bargains and sales

Ach-choo! Christmas arrives with a snuffle

by MARTHA PERKINS
Editor

When people came back to work after the holiday, there was the usual post-Christmas coffee break chatter:

"Oh, I ate too much..."

"You should have seen the looks on the kids' faces..."

"It was a really nice family time..."

But this year, there was another, less pleasant topic of conversation: "It was a wonderful holiday – when I wasn't sick."

In offices across the county, it seems at least half the staff had sore throats, colds or the 'flu at one time or another during the holidays. The *Echo* was a part of this trend, so we phoned Dr. Norman Bottum of the Haliburton Family Medical Centre to see if this Christmas was unhealthier than usual.

"There has been quite a rash of different viruses but not out of keeping with what we'd expect," he says. There were a lot of colds and strept throat, but the 'flu season is just approaching.

During the relatively warm November and early December, people were outside a lot more.

When it got cold, people stayed inside, and that's where germs get spread. "It all depends on the company you keep."

Of course, any advice about keeping healthy is as old as it is true: get lots of rest, eat healthy foods and exercise. In an age where most people are working, Dr. Bottum's other advice is a bit harder to keep: when you're sick, don't come to work, where you'll just give everyone else the same virus.

When and if you do get a cold, it's not necessarily cause for alarm – or a trip to your doctor's office. A fever or a runny nose is your body's way of getting rid of infections, and doctors can only recommend ways you can control symptoms until the virus goes away on its own.

As part of the government's social contract with doctors, the Ministry of Health is supposed to embark upon a public education program "to help people know when they should and when they shouldn't go to the doctor because of a cold," says Dr. Bottum. The health unit may be taking on a similar project in the new year.

So, if your Christmas holiday was spent wrapped in a blanket on the couch, take heart. You weren't alone. And at least when you go back to work, you'll get lots of sympathy.

Stockings were full of socks

by MARTHA PERKINS
Editor

It was a back to basics Christmas.

You know – back to socks and underwear for gifts, back to valuing time with family more than presents, and back to making sure you got value for your dollar during that holiday shopping marathon.

Many Haliburton store owners say that this Christmas was busier than last year, but shoppers were still very conscientious about price and less inclined to buy luxury items.

"The general outlook among people was more positive," says Stedmans owner Vince Connaughan. People were buying practical gifts such as socks and underwear, but at least they were buying more than last year. "The final week it really hit but before that, people were just picking up bits and pieces," he says.

Last year, Connaughan said that many businesses were doing themselves a disservice by advertising huge sales before Christmas, instead of waiting for Boxing Day. Remember how so many clothing stores closed up shop last year, selling merchandise at 70 percent off while those still in business struggled to even try to match the prices? The problem was, it created consumer expectations that these sales were the norm – and the expectations continued through to this year.

"Everyone's out there looking for sales," says Ken Langdon, owner of Black's Home Hardware. "In the last few years we've really had to be competitive," and they now hold about 20 sales a year. This Christmas, business was up and that's what counts.

"People love sales," agrees Sharon Sisson, a clerk at Country Pickin's. "They still expect sales before Christmas and they really expect them after. If you put it on sale, you get more people in."

However, she also points out that if someone has "a big woolly sweater" on their Christmas shopping list, they're going to buy a big woolly sweater whether it's on sale or not. Likewise, Sisson knew exactly what she

Please turn to page 2

Generous donors aid needy

by MARTHA PERKINS
Editor

During the 4Cs Christmas food drive, the stories of generosity and gratitude could warm anyone's heart – even during one of the coldest Christmases ever.

About 200 families received boxes stuffed with food and toys, together with a food voucher to ensure that everyone could enjoy a festive Christmas dinner. That means that almost 600 people's lives were touched by the thoughtfulness of others.

"The donations were fantastic," says 4Cs president Bob Thompson. "They just came rolling in. We've never had to ask for a cent... and none of the youngsters had to do without toys."

Because many people and organizations donate money instead of food, the 4Cs was able to buy more than $15,000 in groceries, ensuring that there was enough for everyone.

And if that number seems staggering, then consider this: during the year, the value of groceries donated and the value of cash donated is $30,000 each.

"It really is incredible," agrees Thompson. "I really feel the people of Haliburton have taken pride in the Lily Ann and 4Cs. Everything they give goes back into the community and is utilized."

The Lily Ann is a second-hand clothing store operated by the 4Cs' volunteers. On Christmas Eve, just as families were coming in to pick up the food hampers, the Lily Ann announced that everything in the clothing depot was free.

This year, United Church in Wilberforce and the Glamorgan fire department also arranged depots so the 4Cs could better reach the people outside of Haliburton village. Thompson was pleased with this extra effort,

Please turn to page 3

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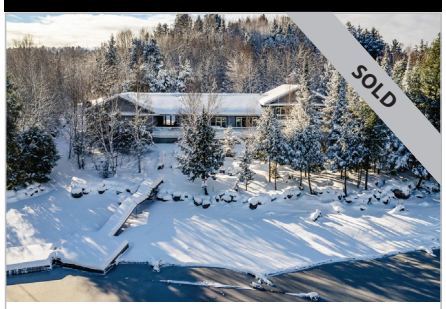

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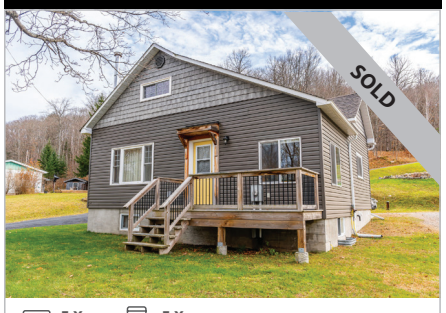

3 X BED | 3 X BATH

HALIBURTON LAKE
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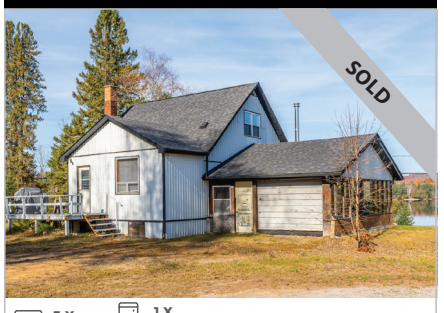
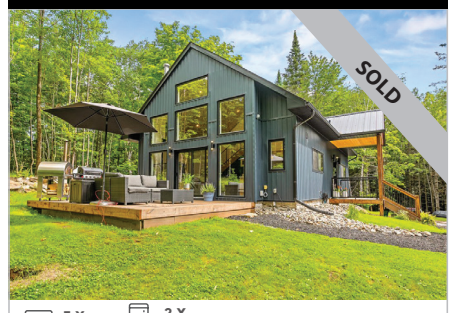
4 X BED | 3 X BATH

WEST GUILFORD
$395,000



3 X BED | 1 X BATH

EAGLE LAKE
$925,000



3 X BED | 2 X BATH

VACANT LAND FOR SALE

Haliburton Lake Road
MLS X10437518
$250,000
14.53 Acres

Bethel Road
MLS X10899794
$191,000
24.65 Acres

Basshaunt Lake Road
MLS X10437016
$109,000
2.19 Acres

Wenona Lake Road
MLS X10899857
$109,000
0.42 Acres

Ross Lake Road
MLS X11899959
$68,800
2.3 Acres

BRG HAS OFFICIALLY MOVED!

7 Dysart Avenue, Haliburton

Linda Baumgartner - Broker of Record | Owner
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contact@baumgartnerrealty.ca
www.baumgartnerrealty.ca

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